



**Application form:
RTA Community Planning Program and
CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program**

DEADLINE: Noon on Thursday, June 29, 2017

This application form is online at www.rtachicago.org/applications. You may submit the form by email to applications@rtachicago.org.

Upon receipt of application, you will receive an e-mail verifying that your application has been received.

1. Name of Applicant

Northwest Municipal Conference

2. Main Contact for Application

Name: Mike Walczak

Title: Transportation Director

Phone number: 847-296-9200 x134

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3. Type of Applicant (please check any that apply)

☐ Local government

☐ Multijurisdictional group* → Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):

☒ Nongovernmental organization* → Name of local government partner(s):

*Applications submitted by multijurisdictional groups and nongovernmental organizations must include a letter indicating support from each relevant local government. See the FAQs for more information.

Nongovernmental applicants are strongly encouraged to contact CMAP or the RTA prior to submitting their application to discuss their project and the demonstration of local support.

4. Project Type (please check any that apply)

Please check all statements below that describe characteristics of your project.

- ☒ My project involves preparation of a plan.
- ☒ My project involves updating an already existing plan.
- ☒ My project helps to implement a past plan.
- ☐ My project links land use, transportation, and housing.
- ☒ My project has direct relevance to public transit and supports the use of the existing transit system.
- ☐ My project is not directly related to transportation or land use, but implements GO TO 2040 in other ways.

5. Local Match Requirement (please initial to indicate you are aware of the local match requirements)

I am aware that a local match will be required for most projects, and understand that if my project is selected it is up to the project applicant to contribute a local match. (See the program guide for further details on local match requirements.)

- ☒ Yes, I understand that applicants will be required to contribute a local match.

6. Project Location

Please provide a brief description of the location of your project. You may include a map if that helps to describe location, but this is not required. If your project helps to implement a past plan, please include a link to that plan.

See attached for #6 - 9.

7. Project Description

Please tell us what you would like to do in your community, and what assistance is needed. If you have more than one idea, please submit a separate application for each project. Please be specific, but also brief (less than two pages per project idea)—we simply want to have a basic understanding of what you want to do. For plan updates please tell us how you will be building upon (or replacing) the previous work. Program staff will follow-up with you if we need any additional information to fully understand your proposed project.

8. Previous Plan Implementation Efforts

Please describe actions you have taken to implement previous plans in your community – whether your efforts were successful or not – to achieve infrastructure improvements, development investment, policy changes, advocacy, volunteer involvement, or other actions. If you do not have experience implementing previous planning work, please describe what you will do to make sure that your plan is implemented. Illustrating a commitment to implement plan recommendations is very important to both agencies as we consider new planning projects.

9. Additional Strategic Partnerships

Please list any additional partners you may want to include in this planning project. Please specify if you have made contact with them in advance of submitting this application.

(Please include any additional information that is relevant, preferably by providing links to online documents.)

Additional information for Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) Local Technical Assistance Application – 2017.

6. The Northwest Municipal Conference is a regional Council of Governments, consisting of forty-four municipalities and one township in Cook, Lake, McHenry, Kane, and DuPage counties.

A map of NWMC members can be found here:

<http://www.nwmc-cog.org/About-NWMC/Service-Directory.aspx>

The 2010 NWMC Bike Plan can be found here:

<http://www.nwmc-cog.org/Transportation/Bike-Planning.aspx#2010BikePlanUpdate>

7. NWMC approved its first ever conference-wide bicycle plan in 2010. Individually, many NWMC members had prepared excellent plans and maps for facilities within their municipal boundaries. However, the members of the Northwest Municipal Conference saw the opportunity to connect these smaller sets of facilities into a larger regional network. The goals of the 2010 plan, as set out by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee were to produce a more detailed corridor analysis and an implementation strategy for regional bicycle facilities. Complementing these larger goals are recommendations for preparing local bike plans and bike safety, education, and encouragement programs, regional signage, bike plan design and placement, and grant opportunities. Since the completion of the 2010 NWMC Bicycle Plan, three subplans have been prepared. In 2012, the NWMC Regional Bicycle Signage Plan and the Northwest Highway Corridor Plan were adopted. In 2014, the Des Plaines River Trail Plan was adopted.

For the first time, NWMC is looking to produce a multi-modal transportation plan, including bicycle and pedestrian planning, as well as improving access to transit throughout our region. This next plan represents the most detailed multi-modal planning effort yet prepared by the conference. Building on previous bicycle planning work and relying on the hard work of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, municipal staff and elected officials, this document will act as a guide for planning and implementing a multi-modal network in the NWMC service area.

The goal of the plan is to evaluate the existing regional bicycle corridors developed in the 2010 Plan and update the analysis to determine if the corridors are still the best options for implementation or need to be amended. The analysis will include feasibility of bicycle accommodations, access to regional destinations and compatibility with municipal bicycle networks. The plan will step beyond the 2010 plan with the addition of the pedestrian and transit networks. For the pedestrian network, the plan will identify major gaps or barriers, with a focus on collector and arterial roads. For access to transit, the plan will make recommendations on how to improve non-motorized access to transit stops for all three service providers (Metra, Pace and CTA) in the region. For all three modes, updated best practices should be included. Special attention should be given to improvements to intersections, which can act as significant

barriers to non-motorized travel in a suburban setting. The plan will make recommendations on prioritizing the improvements based on and network connectivity. Finally, the plan should include a strategy for outreach to all NWMC members, partner agencies in the region who have a role in the transportation network, and the general public who will be the end users of the network. The 2010 Plan relied only on limited input from NWMC members and agency partners.

The tasks of the planning effort would include:

Task 1: Review of 2010 NWMC Bicycle Plan

Review the existing bicycle plan and analyze the recommendations, with specific emphasis on the regional bicycle corridors. Identify any possible realignment of regional corridors, as well as the addition or deletion of regional corridors.

Task 2: Review existing arterial sidewalk network

Given the importance of sidewalk connectivity, produce a map of existing sidewalks on roads classified by IDOT as collector or higher as well as any local roads within ½ mile of a transit stop. Gaps in the network will be identified and prioritized.

Task 3: Review existing challenges to accessing the region's transit network

In addition to sidewalk gaps, identify other barriers, including physical barriers or gaps in service, which present significant challenges for the region's residents and employees to access the existing transit network.

Task 4: Develop outreach strategy for municipal members, partner agencies and general public

Two rounds of outreach to municipal members, partner agencies and the general public should be conducted to provide initial feedback on multi-modal transportation in the NWMC region and then to provide feedback on specific recommendations in the draft plan. Stakeholders, including municipal members and partner agencies, will be identified by NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, NWMC staff and the consultants. Outreach to stakeholders can include, but is not limited to interviews or surveys. Outreach from the stakeholders and the general public should inform the recommendations made in the implementation plan

Task 5: Review and assess best practices

Since the development of the 2010 NWMC Bike Plan, advances in the design of bicycle and pedestrian facilities have been made. The plan will provide a toolkit of current best practices for facility design, including intersection treatments, and provide examples in the NWMC region where the best practices could be implemented. The review should also include examples of existing facility types currently found in the NWMC area and an evaluation of their effectiveness.

Task 6: Develop an implementation plan

Based on NWMC staff and Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee feedback the plan will recommend prioritization of the bicycle routes, sidewalk network improvements and access to transit improvements by balancing the existing conditions, needs and budgetary realities. The plan will include cost estimates for typical improvements and maintenance. The estimates should also include a cost/benefit analysis to

allow for comparisons between facility types to assist decision making when multiple facility types are feasible. Similar to the 2010 Plan, improvements should be shown for the NWMC area as a whole as well as broken out for each municipal member, where applicable.

Task 7: Create a policy document including maps, supporting documents and data as needed

- The comprehensive Plan
- Summary of existing conditions of regional corridors, pedestrian accommodations, and access to transit
- Summary of the municipal, agency, and public participation process for the Plan
- Best practices toolkit applicable to NWMC members
- Implementation Plan with cost estimates
- Potential funding sources for Plan implementation
- Performance benchmarks and indicators to evaluate progress and/or success
- Relevant maps (including shapefiles), tables, charts, graphics, sketches, and appendices as needed

8. Since the adoption of our 2010 NWMC Bike Plan, staff have worked with our member municipalities and other relevant agencies to implement the recommendations of the plan, with specific emphasis on project completion. We have assisted in the preparation of grant applications for funding sources including: the Surface Transportation Program (STP), the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program, the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). Additionally, we have encouraged the inclusion of recommendations from the plan into locally funded projects.

We have tracked the implementation of projects on the regional corridors recommended in the plan on our website and provided updates at our relevant committees. Where necessary, we have also undertaken additional planning studies, including the three subregional plans cited above, to further develop concepts from the plan.

9. The Northwest Municipal Conference will act as the lead agency for this project, with our Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (consisting of elected officials and staff from our membership) providing guidance throughout the planning process. Direct solicitation of ideas and feedback from our entire membership will be encouraged. Approval of any plan would follow our normal committee structure, with the NWMC Board giving final approval.

Throughout the planning process, we anticipate working with a number of partner agencies in addition to our member municipalities. These can include, but are not limited to: the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP); the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), Metra, Pace, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT); and, all relevant county transportation departments and forest preserves districts.